

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, May 14, 2004

MPDC REPORTS INCREASE IN GUN SEIZURES

MPDC officers recovered approximately 25 firearms in just two days this past week, part of a trend of increasing gun seizures by police in the District. In 2003, a total of 1,982 firearms were recovered by police. So far this year, approximately 800 weapons have been recovered. That puts the 2004 total almost 11 percent above the 2003 figure, which itself was an increase over the 2002 figure. The recent gun recoveries include a case in which Sixth District detectives, who were investigating a shooting in Northeast, recovered five handguns – a .45 caliber, .380 caliber, .40 caliber, .38 caliber and a .22 caliber – from the victim's vehicle. Detectives are now conducting an investigation to determine if the shooting victim, who resides in North Carolina, is possibly connected to gun trafficking in the District. Chief Ramsey emphasized that just as tips from residents helped to solve the tragic May 3 homicide of 8-year-old Chelsea Cromartie in Northeast, more citizens need to come forward and contact the police with information about those illegally possessing or selling firearms in the District. Residents who have information about firearms are urged to call the MPDC's 24-hour Command Center at (202) 727-9099 or the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives tip line at 1-800-ATF-GUNS.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2710>
- ① For information on DC's gun laws and other safety information for parents, go to:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/gunsafety.shtm>
- ① The MPDC this past week arrested two DC men who are charged with Murder 1 while Armed in the murder of Chelsea Cromartie. Details at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2705>

AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING REACHES NEW LOW IN PHOTO RADAR ENFORCEMENT ZONES

For the first time, fewer than 5 percent of the vehicles monitored by the MPDC's photo radar program were speeding aggressively during April 2004—a record low in the history of the traffic safety program. Of the nearly 1.4 million vehicles that passed through photo radar enforcement zones during the month, only about 65,000 were found to be speeding above the threshold established for the program. Last month's aggressive speeding rate of 4.7 percent is the lowest since DC's photo radar speeding reduction program began in July 2001. Over the nearly three years that photo radar has been in operation, the percentage of aggressive speeders in DC has declined by more than 80 percent. In addition, the average speeds of all vehicles traveling on residential streets, arteries and highways continue to be substantially lower today than they were when the program began almost three years ago. On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, for example, the average speed of all vehicles detected by photo radar was just 26.1 mph in April 2004 - down from 35.5 mph in July 2001. During the first 33 months of full operation, more than 914,000 Notices of Infraction were mailed and approximately 658,000 were paid, resulting in fines of nearly \$49.5 million. This level of consistent enforcement has been achieved without pulling officers from other community policing assignments or otherwise diminishing public safety services in DC's neighborhoods.

- ① For more information and detailed results of the photo radar program, go to:
www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.shtm
- ① The April data include results from DC's first stationary photo radar camera, located in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NE. Following a month-long warning period, the stationary camera began generating citations in late March. During April, fewer than 4 percent of the drivers in this enforcement zone were speeding aggressively, down from approximately 7 percent in March 2004 and 11.5 percent in February 2004. More data at:
www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_fixedsite_FlaAveNE.shtm
- ① For the latest results on DC's red-light camera intersection safety program, go to:
www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtm

MPDC ISSUING VOUCHERS TO YOUNG PEOPLE REDEEMABLE FOR FREE BICYCLE HELMETS

Again this year, the MPDC and the District Department of Transportation have teamed up in an effort to reduce bicycle-related injuries to children by ensuring more young people have access to bicycle helmets. DC law requires any child under the age of 16 to wear a helmet while operating a bicycle in DC. DDOT has purchased 1,000 bicycle helmets for distribution by MPDC personnel. Each police district station and substation has been given a supply of helmets. When an MPDC officer observes a young person riding a bike without a helmet, the officer will issue the cyclist a voucher for a free helmet. The young person, along with a parent or guardian, must then report to an MPDC station or substation to redeem the voucher and be shown how to wear a helmet. Experience shows that bicycle helmets can reduce the risk of head injury in bicycle crashes by up to 85 percent.

FLEET AND FACILITIES MANAGERS AMONG CIVILIAN VACANCIES IN THE MPDC

The MPDC is currently seeking qualified candidates for a number of professional and managerial positions within the agency. These include two higher-level Management Supervisory Service (MSS) positions: Facilities Manager, which oversees management of the MPDC's physical plant, and Fleet Services Manager, which oversees administration of the Department's contract for maintaining its vehicle fleet. Other vacancies include a Fleet Program Specialist and several Biologists, who will work on MPDC cases at the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, VA. The current civilian vacancies have various qualifications requirements and ranking factors, as well as different application deadlines.

NEWS & NOTES

Chief Ramsey on the Radio. Chief Ramsey will discuss public safety issues and take phone calls from the community during two radio appearances this week. On May 18, the Chief is on the "Daily Drum," on WHUR 96.3-FM, from 6:40–7 pm; on May 19, he is the guest on the "Kojo Nnamdi Show," on WAMU 88.5-FM, from 12 noon–1 pm. More information at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/media/media.shtm>.

CAC Supports At-Risk Children. The Chief of Police's Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) has announced an ambitious effort to raise \$25,000 to help more at-risk youth in DC attend summer camp. The Joseph K. Smith Memorial Summer Camp Fund, under the direction of the CAC, is holding a dinner on Friday, June 4, from 6:30–10 pm, at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road, NE. For more information or to support this youth crime prevention effort, contact George W. Fenderson of the Chief's CAC, at (202) 291-6727.

MPDC Email Upgrade. The MPDC has upgraded its e-mail system. The new standard for MPDC e-mail addresses is firstname.lastname@dc.gov.

① For details and contact information, go to:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/helmetdistr.shtm>

① More information on bicycle and helmet safety, including DC's bicycle helmet law, can be found at:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/bikers.shtm>

① For specific information about each of the existing vacancies, visit the MPDC's Employment Opportunities page at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

① Residents interested in contributing to the MPDC, but in a part-time, volunteer capacity as opposed to a full-time job, can join the Police Reserve Corps. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/services_PRC.shtm

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 5/14/04)

- 2004: 73
- 2003: 90
- % Change: -18.9%
- Closure Rate: 57.5% (42 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 5/8/04)

- Total: 1,027
- Drugs: 174
- Weapons: 23
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 21
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 56

Firearm Recoveries (as of 5/11/04)

- May: 71
- 2004 Total: 772

Traffic Fatalities (as of 5/14/04)

- 2004: 23
- 2003: 20
- % Change: +15.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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